REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are active in the case. Claims 9, 11 and 12 stand withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to an electronic device that employs an epoxy resin composition as a protective material.

Specification Amendments

The specification has been amended on pages 19 and 20 so that the disclosure on these pages is consistent with the identification of the battery in Claims 13 and 14 as a secondary battery. Entry of the amended portions is respectfully requested. Withdrawal of the ground of rejection raised under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection, 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

The rejection of Claims 1-8, 10 and 13-20 is believed obviated by the amending language that has been introduced into Claims 1, 15 and 20 which incorporates the language suggested by the Examiner at paragraph 2 on page 3 of the Office Action. The Examiner's suggestion is appreciated. Entry of the amended portions is respectfully requested. Withdrawal of the ground of rejection raised under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection, 35 USC 103

Claims 1-8, 10 and 13-20 stand rejected based on 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Clayton, U. S. Patent 6,049,975; Goldner et al, U.S. Patent 6,982,132; JP 2001/2757 in view

of Murai et al, U.S. Patent 6,437,090 and JP Nos. 58/187425 and 62/74919. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to an electronic device which contains a nonaqueous secondary battery and an electronic circuit. The key feature of the invention is the provision of a covering of the battery with an epoxy resin which prevents contact of the electronic circuit with any solvent that may leak from the battery. The electronic circuit is isolated from the battery by the applied epoxy resin composition, thereby achieving the objective of the invention.

The cited primary Clayton and Goldner et al patents, on the other hand, disclose the protection of electronic circuit devices, not from leakage of solvent from a nonaqueous battery, but from the deleterious effects of exposure to atmospheric moisture and/or oxygen. In the teachings of the prior art, it is the circuits themselves that are coated with protective resin covering. The patents, in fact, do not express any concern about any leakage of nonaqueous solvent from a nearby battery which may occur.

Applicants point out that in considering the protection of electronic circuits by providing the same with a protective coating, a number of properties of a coating material must be considered which include organic solvent resistance (the present invention), moisture resistance and/or oxidation resistance (the cited and applied references) and oxygen penetration tightness (the cited and applied references). It is difficult to predict what particular resin material may satisfy one or more of these characteristics. Even if it is known what epoxy resins exhibit moisture resistance and oxidation tightness properties and is useful in protecting electronic circuits, it cannot be predicted whether such resins would be effective and useful in protecting electronic circuits from the adverse impact of a nonaqueous organic solvent which may leak from a nonaqueous liquid containing battery. Further, although epoxy resins have the various characteristics described in the references that have been cited,

including the Japanese patent references, there is no description in any of these references which suggests a tolerance to chemical substances such as the nonaqueous organic solvents that are used in the fabrication of nonaqueous liquid containing batteries. Accordingly, the present invention is not believed to be obvious over the cited and applied prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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